DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kali Pillai, it is admitted that the grant for the maintenance of Mamam river is not sufficient, and the Chief Engineer will be asked to put up proposals for increasing it.

An estimate for a bridge across the Mamam river is under preparation, and it has been decided that a bridge is not necessary at the Azhur ferry.

The bridge at Kollampuzha *kadavu* will be taken up later after the connected road is completed.

In 1928, Government sanctioned an estimate for a portion of the Attingal-Chirayinkil road as far as the Trivandrum-Quilon road and the portion beyond that has to be investigated. The work on the first part has been completed.

Every year larger amounts are provided in the budget for agricultural loans. This year a sum of Rs. 4½ lakhs has been provided against Rs. 3½ lakhs in 1106.

At two previous sessions, a request was made that the Tahsildar of Chirayinkil should be invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate. The opinion accepted then was that, in view of the train and motor service and the fact the place was therefore within easy reach of Trivandrum, this was not necessary.

87. Needs of the Attingal municipal town.

MR. K. N. SEKHARA VARIAR (*Municipal Council, Attingal*) first spoke about the necessity for constructing a *satram* at Attingal. Attingal was an important place, being the ancient seat of the Ruling Family of Travancore and of their guardian deity. In connection with the visit of His Highness the Maha Raja to the place many officials and non-officials had to stay at the place and the absence of a *satram* was keenly felt on these occasions. The member was glad that the Government had recognised the need for a *satram* and had taken up the question for consideration.

The member next urged the need for providing additional street lights in the Attingal municipal town. The Municipality extended over an area of 16 square miles and had to attend to 20 miles of roads and lanes. But there were altogether only 125 street lights in the municipal area. Many of the municipal roads were the favourite haunts of poisonous reptiles. Additional lights were therefore absolutely necessary and early sanction should be accorded for the provision of the same.

A recreation ground should be provided for the benefit of the people of the town. The same subject was represented at the previous session of the Assembly also.

The local Municipal Council should be allowed a non-official elected President This privilege was formerly enjoyed by the Municipality. On the sole ground that in the early days of its existence, the affairs of the Municipality were not properly conducted, it should not be presumed that the Municipality would not get any more able men to steer it

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through proper channels. Sanction should therefore be accorded early to have an elected non-official President for the Municipality.

Lastly, the member requested that a First Class Magistrate's Court be established at Attingal. The First Class Magistrate at Trivandrum had a very heavy file, as the taluks of Chirayinkil, Neyyattinkara and Trivandrum were under his jurisdiction. It would be even sufficient if the Tahsildar of the Chirayankil taluk be invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate. This would not affect the Government financially.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sekhara Variar, Government have ordered the question of the establishment of a *satram* at Attingal to be dropped for the present.

The Council's resolution for putting up additional street lights in the town of Attingal is under the consideration of Government.

The provision of a recreation ground is under correspondence.

The question of allowing the Attingal Municipal Council to elect its own President is receiving the attention of Government at the moment.

I have already answered more than one representation about the establishment of a First Class Magistrate's Court in the Chirayinkil taluk. That matter has been decided; the Government agree with the District Magistrate that there is no necessity for it.

88. Needs of the Quilon taluk.

Mr. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI (*Quilon taluk, Group I*) said that most of the subjects included in the agenda had been represented by him over and over again in the previous sessions of the Assembly. He did not therefore want to waste the time of the Assembly by reading out all the subjects again but only wanted to allude to a few items which required the immediate attention of the Government.

The first and foremost matter that should engage the attention of the Government was the dire situation caused in the country by the economic depression. The fall in prices of commodities coupled with the decrease in production had adversely affected the agriculturists of the country. In order to afford them some relief, the Government should consider the feasibility of remitting a portion of the land tax and income tax or at least of increasing the number of instalments for the payment of the same. The benefits of the system of agricultural loans should be made available to *bona fide* agriculturists and the loans should be equitably distributed to all the taluks.

Another matter which the member wanted to bring to the notice of the Government was about the excise policy at Paravur. Temperance was the accepted policy of the Government and they had recognised as sound, a policy of gradual prohibition. A committee which enquired into the question had suggested the desirability of prohibiting the use of arrack and foreign liquors for a period of 20 years. Mr. M. E. Watts, while he was Dewan, had accepted the principle of local

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